

COMMITTEE	Licensing Committee
DATE	13 December 2016
DIRECTOR	Richard Ellis
TITLE OF REPORT	Taxi Fare Review
REPORT NUMBER	CG/16/156
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Council as the licensing authority for taxis is required to review and fix scales for fares and any other charges.

At its meeting on 25 October 2016, the Licensing Committee proposed not to alter the fare scale and thereby fix the fares at their existing level. It did however propose to increase the surcharge for non-airport zoned taxis dropping passengers at the inner forecourt from £1 to £2. In line with statutory requirements, the proposal has been advertised in a local newspaper inviting persons to make representations, which the Committee must consider when fixing the scales.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

(a) notes the content of this report;

(b) confirms its decision to fix fares at the existing level;

(c) confirms its decision to fix the surcharge for non-airport zoned taxis dropping passengers at the inner forecourt at £2

(c) approves the Tariff Card attached at Appendix 1; and

(d) agrees that the tariff will take effect from 23 January 2017, provided no appeal is lodged with the Traffic Commissioner.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

As required by the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, an advert was published in a newspaper circulating locally, namely the Evening Express. Members of the public were invited to submit representations in writing by Friday 02 December 2016. The date for lodging representations has now passed and none were received in respect of the proposals.

If the Committee agrees, the proposed fares and surcharge will take effect on 23 January 2017. This will allow officers to complete the statutory procedures.

6. IMPACT

Corporate -

Reviewing the fare formula supports the corporate aim to be transparent in how it sets taxi fares. Fares need to be set at a level that will provide a fair return to the trade. A lack of taxis could have an adverse impact on the local economy and be detrimental to the City's reputation as a destination for business and tourism.

Equality- as the review is proposing no change to the tariff, the proposal has a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics; therefore, an impact assessment is not required.

Public –

The report will be of interest to both the taxi trade and members of the public.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Fares need to be set at a level which will provide a fair return to the trade. This in turn will ensure there is provision of adequate taxi services for residents and visitors alike. A lack of taxis could have an adverse impact on the local economy and be detrimental to the City's reputation as a destination for business and tourism. This fits with the Local Transport Strategy, which recognises the important gap in the transport network that taxis and private hire cars can fill.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
Aberdeen Taxi Fares Formula Review

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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